Issue Price of Wheat and Rice

3293. SHRI AHMED MOHMEDBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether any revision has been made in the issue prices of wheat and rice during the last three years;

(b) how far the revision helped in reducing food subsidy; and

(c) what are the steps taken for the better management of buffer stocks of foodgrains and to reduce the economic cost of handling foodgrains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) The issue prices were revised as under:—

(Rs. per qtl.)

Effective from	Central Issue price	Rice		
	Wheat	Common	Fine	Superfine
28.12.91	280	377	437	458
11.1.93	330	437	497	518
1.2.94	402	537	617	648
1.10.94	—	597	677	708

(b) Central issue prices fixed by the Government do not fully cover the economic cost to FCI of procurement and distribution of foodgrains. Food subsidy paid/released to FCI during the past five years is as under:—

(Rs. in crores)

Year	Amount of subsidy paid	
1990-91	2142	(excluding Rs. 308 crores on sugar)
1991-92	2850	
1992-93	2785	(excluding Rs. 15 crores on sugar)
1993-94	5537	
1994-95 (BE)	4000	

(c) Continuous efforts are being made by FCI in this regard, such as protecting and safe storage of stocks, adopting a systematic policy of liquidating CAP storage, issuing old stocks; undertaking open sale of wheat and rice; reducing the incidence of transit and storage shortages; maximum utilisation of godown capacity, etc.

Production of Sugar

3294. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE: SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that sugar production during May and June, 1994 fell further;

(b) if so, what was the actual production during these months and how it compared with that during the preceding two months and that during the corresponding months in 1993 and 1992; and

(c) what steps were taken by Government to boost up production of sugar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI KALP NATH RAI):

(a) and (b) The sugar production in the months of March, April, May and June during the sugar seasons 1991-92, 1992-93 and 1993-94 was as under:—

(Figures in lakh tonnes)

Sugar Season	Sugar production during the month of			
(Oct.-Sept.)	March	April	May	June
1993-94 (Provisional)	15.23	6.39	1.40	0.52
1992-93 (Provisional)	19.89	10.43	1.91	0.18
1991-92	22.64	17.76	9.67	3.63

(c) The measures taken/initiated by the Government considering the need to boost sugar production during 1993-94 sugar season are as under:—

(i) Early—crushing incentives were announced in the form of higher freesale quota at 72%, as against the normal entitlement of 60%, to sugar mills for the production achieved during the period 1-10-1993 to 15-11-1993.

(ii) Mid-crushing incentives were announced in the form of higher freesale quota at 80%, as against the normal entitlement of 60%, to sugar mills for the additional/incremental production to be achieved during the period 1-1-1994 to 30-4-1994 over the production during the same period in 1992-93 season.